

HURRICANE KATRINA UPDATE 4

Date: 7 September 2005

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY Disaster Recovery Update – Key Messages 7 September 2005

Reduce Further Fatalities and Save Lives. Federal, state and local responders will continue life saving and life sustaining missions by providing ongoing search and rescue, water, food, and medicine, while also taking appropriate actions to prevent exposure, crime and disease. It is important for all residents in New Orleans to evacuate the affected area. All persons found by search and rescue teams will be evacuated as they are found. Unfortunately, there is still much we do not know about the true toll this storm has had on the region, especially on the loss of life. Whatever that number is, it will be devastating to all of us, and our hearts go out to our fellow Americans who have lost loved ones in this terrible tragedy.

Provide Safe Shelter and Secure Housing Facilities. FEMA and American Red Cross are working with federal and state partners and voluntary organizations to ensure victims of Hurricane Katrina are relocated to safe shelters with life-sustaining commodities. Housing Task Forces are also identifying long-term housing facilities to assist disaster victims as quickly as possible.

Ensure Education Opportunities for Children. The Education Department is working with state education officials across the country to help local communities and school districts enroll students displaced as a result of Hurricane Katrina. A new web page, located at www.ed.gov/katrina, matches school needs with businesses and organizations that would like to help by donating materials and other needed resources.

KEY STATISTICS

- ✓ More than **70,000** response, rescue, recovery and law enforcement personnel are working around the clock to bring critical aid and support to the Gulf Coast region.
- ✓ There are **235,400** people who have been evacuated and are safely housed in **750** shelters nationwide.
- ✓ More than **47,000** lives have been saved or rescued to date.
- ✓ Nearly **21** million liters of water and **11.9** million MREs distributed by FEMA.
- ✓ **12** Disaster Recovery Centers open in Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas.
- ✓ **85** National Disaster Medical System Teams engaged in Gulf Region.

